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COUNTRY USSR (~~Khabarovsk~~ Kray)

REPORT

SUBJECT Glider Towing Operations over
Khabarovsk

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

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1.  glider towing operations over Khabarovsk 
2. Attached to the report is a sketch of the type of gliders which were observed over Khabarovsk.

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AIR

Glider Towing Operations over Khabarovsk

1. Period of Observation

Glider towing operations were observed on several occasions between 1952 and 1955 [redacted]

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[redacted] During the war in Korea contingents of gliders, always under tow, were seen flying overhead towards the south. Activity was resumed in 1954 and increased in 1955. Details of sightings and a description of the type of gliders seen are provided below.

2. Activity Observed

(a) 1951. Between 20 and 30 twin-engined transport aircraft each towing a glider half as big again as itself passed over Khabarovsk flying in a southwesterly direction. [redacted]

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(b) 1952. A formation of between 30 and 50 aircraft towing gliders flew over Khabarovsk flying southward. [redacted]

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(c) Early summer 1954 Nine transport aircraft, each towing a glider, flew over in groups of three at an altitude of 200 metres. Towing cables were about three times the length of the aircraft.

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[redacted] July or August 1954, a total of 36 aircraft flying in groups of three, passed over the Stalin Highway flying southward. Each aircraft towed a train of three gliders.

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(d) Autumn 1954. Four formations of three aircraft, each towing one glider, flew over in a northwesterly direction.

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(e) 1955 (Month not specified). Three aircraft each towing one glider flew overhead.

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(f) Summer 1955. Between 15 and 20 transports each with a single glider circled over Khabarovsk in single file at about 1,000 metres.

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(g) July 1955. A total of some 200 aircraft in formations of 10 - 15 planes each with one glider flew southward over an interval of three days.

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3. Type of Glider Observed

(a) Sketch. The sketch at Appendix "A" gives an impression of the type of glider seen.

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believe the wingtips to have been square.

(b) IL-12 aircraft were often used for towing.

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in these instances the gliders were slightly shorter though fuller in the fuselage than the IL-12s. Colour: a dull dark green - blackish green. Gliders gave the impression of being of wooden construction.

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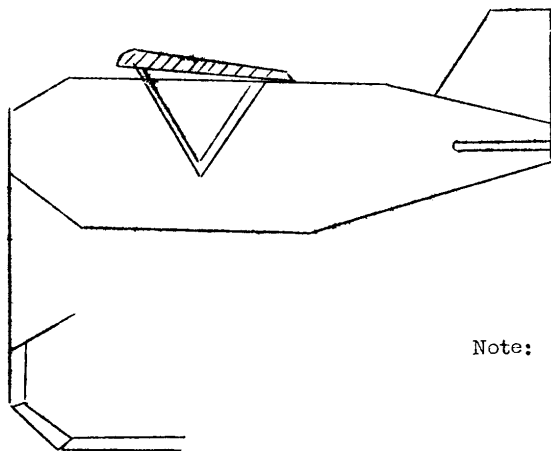
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SKETCH [] OF GLIDERS AND AIR TRAINS SEEN OVER Khabarovsk

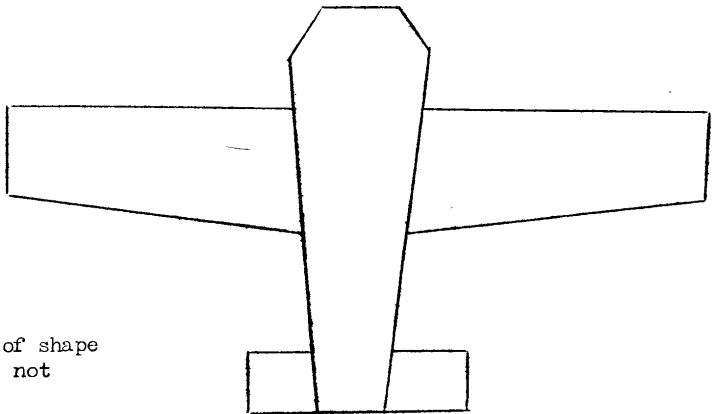
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Lateral view

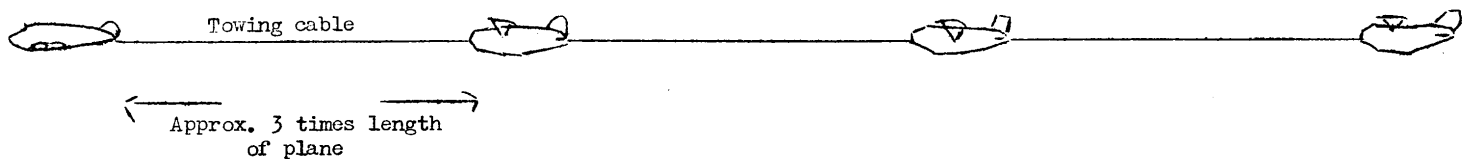


View from Ground



Note: Recollection of shape
of main wings not
reliable.

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APPENDIX "A"

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